



**Directorate of  
Intelligence**

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# **Science and Weapons Daily Review**

**Friday**

**8 June 1984**

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## Science and Weapons Daily Review

JAPAN/NETHERLANDS/SWEDEN: TRENDS TOWARD RELAXATION OF RECOMBINANT  
DNA REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES

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international efforts  
to ease recombinant DNA regulations and guidelines: 25X1

- In Japan, the Prime Minister's Life Science Committee of the Council for Science and Technology has granted permission to the National Institute for Agro-Biological Resources to use genetic engineering in agricultural plant research. The Japanese Federation of Economic Organizations has recommended that the various relevant ministries coordinate policies, regulations, and guidelines for recombinant DNA work. The Federation also recommended that less stringent regulations for the mass production of recombinant DNA-derived products be enacted.
- In the Netherlands, industrial leaders have requested that the Dutch Council of State review and relax conditions that permit recombinant DNA research. The Council of State will pronounce judgment on the matter within the next few months.
- In Sweden, a government-appointed commission established to investigate environmental risks and the occupational health and safety of workers recently reported that the risks associated with recombinant DNA activities are

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no greater than those associated with ordinary cell lines and microorganisms. The commission also reported that the current Occupational Health and Safety Board adequately ensures worker protection and should no longer have to seek approval from the State Board before starting gene engineering work. The report recommendations have been submitted for action to the Swedish Government.

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Comment:

If the relaxation measures and recommendations are accepted and enacted by Japan, the Netherlands, and Sweden, testing and evaluation of recombinant DNA-derived products probably would occur within 12 months. Under the current more restrictive guidelines, testing and evaluation could require more than two years.

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We believe that official approval of relaxation measures will occur, because government-sponsored committees have stated that the existing regulations for monitoring environmental and health safety are adequate. These committees state that the risks in recombinant DNA microorganisms, processes, and products are comparable to those posed by traditional microorganisms, processes, and products and do not require any new or unique regulations.

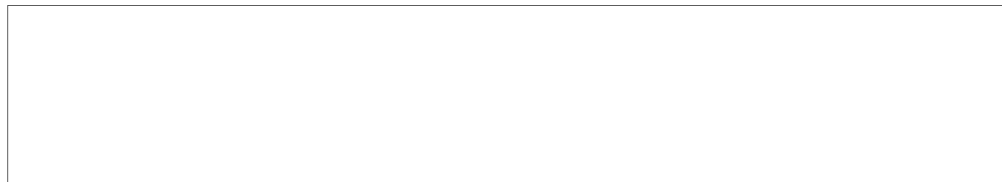
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